

## Among the Books

"Hell and Wing."  
By Frederick Fanning Ayer. G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York and London. \$2.50.

The man who publishes a volume of poetry nowadays occupies an unusual position in the world of letters, for this is not a poetic age, and a maker and writer of verse has a more complicated task than formerly to reach and to touch the heart of the world. Frederick Fanning Ayer has addressed himself to his public, however, with a mastery of whatever subject he makes his theme and a confidence in himself that goes far toward awakening responsive interest.

His poems are full of vigorous thought and beauty of expression, as is shown by these lines from a bit which the author calls "Egoism." The lines say:

"Once was one wise one, so is told,  
Took to mastering his brave dog,  
That knew not a way to yield, to coddle,  
Yet the master thought him overbold,  
So took to chiding him.  
Took, too, to hiding him,  
Muzzled him to bring him under,  
Practiced each prime stupid blunder  
Which makes for master and slave,  
Makes one plaster, 'till he knew,  
Till he had him so wot in hand  
As the sea has of the sailing sand.  
All went well enough till there came  
A need of dog-skill, need of the name  
Of love, which is power to do  
All the masterfulness of you  
Without heed of profit or harm—  
There's life at its superhuman charm—  
For one night came, the master was  
down,  
Smothered in the clutch and trown  
Of picaresque—each cry for help  
Died on the mask of dark—  
Came there back just the coward yelp  
Of the hound, never growl nor bark  
As he slunk back of each plaster,  
Till tucked well between two legs  
Bent under him like broken pegs  
For fear—so he left his master  
Gagged and robbed of a last plaster."

The "Woman Militant" has occupied the centre of the thought stage during the first years of the twentieth century. But Mr. Ayer sings "The Man Militant," of whom he says:

"You are my militant man  
To fight out a way  
To your new order day  
Of deeper sight, loftier span,  
Of deeper thought, loftier span."

In another poem, "Old Darby," there is a story told of two brothers, one of ignoble, the other of noble mind, the latter being thus described:

"None feared him, none knew him who  
He was,  
Only Old Darby was his name;  
His purpose to make common cause,  
With hard-luck people—that way  
he came  
To be known for his majesty part  
He played, his mighty human heart."

"Old Darby," for the sake of making the woman he loved happy, gave up everything that men commonly hold dear for a humble, but kindly life in a hovel. Here happiness and love sought and found him on an April day, fulfilling the thought of the poet that—

"Something in Nature makes for Right,  
Keeps always perfect Beauty in sight,  
So heeds not all your soul and might."

"In a Bell Tower" is the name of a poem embodying a romance, that of a man who was a cripple and was carried to a bell tower by his desire, so that he could rise above the lives of the earth men beneath him and tell his heart to the world in bells which out the pain of being seen and jeered at because of his infirmity. A village girl came to listen so truly to the music he rang out, that she knew each "little rattle" of his fingers of a cripple, and climbed the tower to find and see the musician who—

"Won her there  
To the upper air  
By his serenity of love  
Beyond her and above."

"Moon Fields, or Man the God," is a poem of length and importance that demands close reading and thought. Several lines in it say:

"From my uncle I learned the value  
Of Right,  
From my Natalie I learned the love  
of it;  
The two together make a human Might,  
Yet your world gets scarce a snuff  
of it!"

Man, to be man, shall be himself,  
Neither childlike nor Grief,  
The whole of him, not part of him,  
Head and soul and pluck and heart of him."

Woman is made by Mr. Fanning to be a royal giver in a poem under the caption of "The Waters," the prelude to which is in these words:

"God knows a robin flutes for love of song,  
Not thinking of the prize,  
Which, perhaps, may come along,  
Or may not, but keeps on fluting  
For the prizes in his song."

The song of the poet sounds clear and high in "The Longings of an Acolyte," some lines of which say:

"O for a wing to fly and be free,  
Free as a wind that comes from leaves,  
Free of these knuckle-gems, this musty  
estry  
Of pomp-light which so wholly be-  
reaves  
Brain of power to be thinking,  
Puts me to my knees to be shrinking—  
As a new survival in a strong storm—  
As if this gabata could keep me warm,  
This doctored draught of thought  
know a way  
Of dealing me the light of day."

The volume, which is finished by an index, covers 125 pages, the poet's inclination and his pen taking a wide range of thought and subject. Fresh fancy, vigor and freedom of thought and directness of expression are distinguishing characteristics of his verse-making, in which also is displayed marked beauty of imagination and sentiment.

Mr. Fanning, aside from his literary pursuits, is a lawyer and successful man of business. He belongs to the Massachusetts family of his name, is president of the Lowell and Andover Railroad and head of the great Ayer property interests in New York.

It would seem that he has carried into the zest and enthusiasm of his labors as a poet the practical knowledge of men and things that has made him a force to reckon with in the American business world. He might have been criticizing his own work in some of his verses, "Man or Book?" When he refers to a girl gifted to read

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a man through and through, who said to a poet:

"Show me your book,  
I'll drink it from cover to cover,  
I love a book like a lover—  
Let me look to see  
If the book or the man count most  
with me."

Then, after reading, sentence is thus passed by the maiden:

"In your book, as I say,  
Never the throb of a lay  
Of the heart; yet taught lies above  
This deep, everlasting human love:  
So greater the man than the book,  
Now that I've taken my look."

"Life and Its Counter Currents."  
By G. W. Swope, Th. M. Marshall & Bruce Company, of Nashville, Tenn., publishers. \$1.50.

The author of this book is a Virginian and pastor of Central Baptist Church, of Norfolk. Mr. Swope, in his foreword, writes:

"The object of this book is to trace life's course, pointing out its many dangers and the way to avoid them, consistently adhering to well-known scientific, sociologic and theological truths. Naturally, I begin with Eden, and close with the New Heaven and the New Earth, wherein joy and peace and love are as unfading flowers, instilling sweet aroma in the heart."

In carrying out his purpose, the author shows life's proper destiny to be one of joy and peace, classes the entrance of sin into life as the first counter current, and dwells on its consequences.

"Wandering Ghosts."  
By the late Marion Crawford. The Macmillan Company, of New York. \$1.25.

American readers, with whom Mr. Crawford was a favorite author, who realized the great loss to the literary world caused by his death, will turn with eager interest to a volume which reveals his versatile genius of a new role, as creating tales of mystery and weirdness, calculated to thrill the imagination and lead it captive.

One of the stories has a Welsh setting; the scenes of others are laid at sea, in England and in Ireland. They are characterized by the clear and full of local color and vividness. Mr. Crawford has not made his strong hinges upon a creaking board or a bit of human drapery. He has written of the genuine supernatural, the real, thrilling, fascinating kind.

Mr. Crawford died just a year ago at Sorrento, in Italy. He, up to that time, had been so continuously and prominently in the eye of the American public that it seems difficult to realize he produced as many as forty novels and historical works since the appearance of "Mr. Isaacs," twenty-eight years ago. He was almost as great a favorite in England as in America, and had a large following in Italy, France, Germany and other European countries.

"Nature's Help to Health."  
By John Warren Achorn, M. D. Moffat, Yard & Co., of New York. 50c, not chronic invalids and gives the initiatory causes of breakdown as hereditary weakness of constitution, poor moral training, lack of understanding, physical and mental make-up, misuse of energy, or unaccustomed wealth and derangement of the digestive organs.

To correct these troubles and prevent their development, nature requires, as the author indicates, that the proper development of the body in a growing child should be as much a matter of concern as the cultivation of its brain. Boys and girls, he says, should recognize their individual limitations and should not engage in occupations for which they are physically disqualified.

Dr. Achorn is, of course, a great advocate for out-of-door occupation, regarding which he writes: "The cleanest kind of work under a roof is to be compared with work in the open, even if the mechanics of this plan can be done under cover any day in the year. The difference between work in the house and work out of doors may be compared to the difference between a wrought iron pot made by hand and a cast iron pot in a mold."

The little book otherwise is full of excellent, practical suggestions and advice, and may be read with much profit by those who desire to avail themselves of "Nature's Help to Health."

"Queenie."  
By T. Chalmers Potter, Moffat, Yard & Co., of New York. 75c, not chronic invalids and gives the initiatory causes of breakdown as hereditary weakness of constitution, poor moral training, lack of understanding, physical and mental make-up, misuse of energy, or unaccustomed wealth and derangement of the digestive organs.

This is the autobiography of an Italian Queen Bee, and is an effort on the part of one who has had an experience of thirty years in working among bees and observing their wonderful ways, to put into language what might have been transcribed in the life of a Queen Bee.

The story is written naturally and interestingly, and is full both of information and romance among the lives of the Bee people.

"The Obvious Orient."  
By Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph. D., LL. D., Litt. D., of Harvard University, D. Appleton & Co., of New York. \$1.50 net.

Dr. Hart treats in his book first of the relation of "The Obvious Orient" to the Western coast of the United States and the Canadian Northwest, taking up the transportation problems of the coast and including scenic and practical Alaska.

Japan is considered with reference to its foreign and native population, the contradictions and education of the Japanese, their rulers, their ambition and the unlikelihood of their becoming westernized.

A most interesting account is given of China, its cities, its courts, the

realities of its government and the effect of alien influence upon the nation, which the author regards as more largely individual than official. He says: "Since the Boxer troubles the popular feeling toward foreigners has grown kinder. I have met middle-aged American and English ladies, who had been traveling alone in the far interior and were so charmed that they meant to return. The outsider is realer, safer in China just now than the natives, for pirates and magistrates both know that the foreigner has behind him an influence which is bound to be felt at Peking."

The American colonies in the Orient are taken up by Dr. Hart in regard to Philippine conditions, insular government and problems. In turning to the British Oriental possessions, Dr. Hart writes: "England is the modern Rome; we know it because brilliant esthetes tell us so; because Great Britain is the power most widely spread upon the earth's surface; because England, like Rome, has conquered great civilized countries and built up native institutions on a foundation of English law; because where the British drum beats there is order, peace and justice."

Dr. Hart's well-known reputation gives to his book the stamp of authority and renders it most valuable, especially now when Eastern problems are daily growing more important.

"Metal Work and Etching."  
By John D. Adams, Popular Mechanics, Book Department, Chicago, Ill.

This is one of the latest of the 23-cent series of industrial handbooks. It is a complete manual for art metal workers, giving every detail for making a great variety of useful and ornamental objects. It is fully illustrated.

"Art in Northern Italy."  
By Corrado Ricci, Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, through the Bell Book and Stationery Co., of Richmond. \$1.50 net.

This book is beautifully gotten out with green and gilt covers and numbers of fine color pictures among the illustrations.

Chapters treat of Ravenna and Byzantine art, of the architecture and sculpture of Venice from its first beginning, through the fifteenth to the eighteenth century; of Venetian painting, and the schools of Murano and the Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, and on down to the nineteenth century; of the art of Padua and Mantua; Verona, Vicenza, Brescia and Bergamo; Milan and Lombardy; the school of Leonardo, in Milan, its architecture and sculpture, the art in Piedmont to the end of the Savoyard monarchy to the close of the nineteenth century; the sculpture, architecture and painting of Liguria; the architecture of Emilia before and during the time of the Renaissance and from the time of Viginoia to the nineteenth century; the painting of Emilia, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, including the schools of Correggio and Carracci.

The color illustrations are all taken from famous paintings, and other pictures afford illuminating suggestions of the sculpture, painting and architecture which they represent. For art lovers and students or for the general reader desiring an acquaintance with early and later periods have rendered Northern Italy famous, this volume is recommended.

"Memorial Day."  
Edited by Robert Haven Schauder, Moffat, Yard & Co., of New York. \$1 net.

In the introduction to this book, appearing with peculiar appropriateness, memorial month is near at hand, the author extends an invitation to the Illustrated American of June 21, 1909, which says in part: "Memorial Day is sacred to the memory of the glorified dead, who consecrated themselves to their country, were beatified and canonized as martyrs for the right. It is well that the country and press of our times, when the highest soul within us is choked and stifled by the more sordid cares of the hour, we should pause for a period to dwell upon the memory of the illustrious dead, who gave their lives for their country."

There are many beautiful poems in the book collected and written by men North and South, East and West. Henry Timrod's hymn for Memorial Day in Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, S. C., has this verse, which stands out among others:

"In seeds of laurel in the earth  
The blossom of your faith is shown,  
And somewhere, waiting for its birth,  
The shaft is in the stone."

Will Henry Thompson has a poem in the collection, "The High Tide at Gettysburg," and the last lines say:

"Fold up the banners! Smelt the guns!  
Love rules. Her gentler purpose runs.  
A mighty mother turns in tears  
The pages of her battle years.  
Lamenting all her fallen sons."

And Austin Dobson's "Ballad of Heroes" is not left out, and it testifies of such that:

"While yet in tower or cot  
Your story stirs the pulses play,  
And men forget the sordid lot—  
The sordid cares—of cities gray:  
While yet they grow for homelier fray  
More strong from you, as reading plain  
That life may go, if honor stay,  
The deeds you wrought are not in vain."

The editor, in his preface, says: "The sole discrimination shown has been in selecting from all sources the most beautiful poetry and the most eloquent prose in this attempt to reveal, from various standpoints, the true spirit and significance of the celebration."

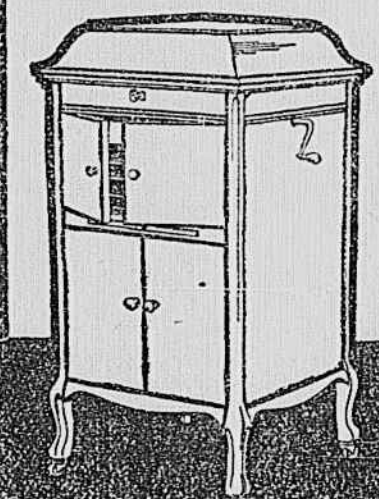
"A war anthology" is included.

MANY RICHMOND ELKS GOING TO ATLANTIC CITY  
Richmond Lodge of Elks is arranging for a large crowd to attend the meeting of the grand lodge in Atlantic City the week of July 2. The lodge expects to carry at least 50 members. Aside from this there are many citizens outside the lodge who have expressed their intention of accompanying the Elks. The committee of accompanying embraces some of the most active members who are making all arrangements for a pleasant trip to the big seaside resort. The chairman of the various committees are: Harry B. Cullen, railroad; Joseph Stump, Elks; Charles W. Freshmonts, Elks; Evesham, uniforms; Max Lindner, badge and hotel; Frank W. Cunningham, chairmen; Luther Cheatwood, secretary; John T. Anderson, treasurer.

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## SHE GOT \$150,000 IN SECURITIES

Amount of Theft Grows, but Mrs. Armour Will Not Prosecute.

Kansas City, Mo., April 9.—The value of the stocks and bonds stolen recently from Mrs. S. B. Armour was \$150,000 instead of \$105,000, as originally reported. It has been developed.

Mrs. Armour's loss will not be any larger than first reported when the story became public. Securities worth \$45,000, the theft of which has just come to light, were never sold. The thief named their hiding place, and they were recovered.

Thus far Mrs. Armour has recovered about \$120,000 in cash and securities. What the goods in storage, jewelry, works of art, rugs and silverware, will bring is not known. It would appear from figures now available that Mrs. Armour will not lose more than \$15,000 or \$20,000.

Friends of the woman who stole the securities recall that the first theft was committed within a few weeks after she had recovered from a severe case of typhoid fever. Her illness was regarded as dangerous, she being delirious much of the time she was ill.

Mrs. Armour still refuses to permit any action to be taken against the guilty person.

Mrs. Armour last night gave out for publication the following letter regarding the theft:

"To the public:  
I profoundly regret that so much publicity has been given to an unfortunate matter connected with my private affairs. I would have prevented it if I could have done so.

"The person involved has been trying to make amends for past errors, and she and I are looking forward for her to a life of much usefulness and kindness in the future. She has done much good in the past; she can do much good in the future. These things should strongly speak for her now."

Defends Erring One.  
"They who do not know the faults in the minds of others who have erred, or the temptations presented, cannot safely judge them."

"All laws, human and divine, command not only that we should highly consider those who have erred, but to give to the erring a chance to obliterate what have been mistakes in the past by good works in the future."

"We should not seek their destruction; we should save them."

Respectfully,  
"MARGARET E. ARMOUR."

Attorney N. H. Hard, who presented the letter for Mrs. Armour, said it was her desire that the matter be closed.

Engagement Announced.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Laurens, Va., April 9.—Mrs. Mary B. Latimer, of Hyattsville, Md., has announced the engagement of her daughter, Laura Edith Latimer, to William Carroll Latham, of Hickory Grove, Prince William county. Mr. Latham is prominent in business and financial circles in Prince William and is a successful farmer. The wedding is announced to take place the latter part of April.

One Negro Shoots Another.  
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Laurens, Va., April 9.—Manuel Jones, a colored boy, about sixteen years of age, shot and killed Eddie Brown, a colored boy, about the same age. The shooting occurred in Zeb Cole's store, in the presence of twenty-five or more colored people. The cause of the shooting is unknown. The criminal escaped and is still at large.

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